

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1978

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO, RO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE MILITARY DELEGATION TO ROMANIA

REF: LISBON 1200

1. GLEANING IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS ABOUT FABIAO VISIT HAVE BEEN SPARSE. ACCORDING TO LATIN AMERICAN EMBOFF WHO WAS ONE OF FEW DIPLOMATS TO TALK WITH DELEGATION, PRIVATE FOCUS OF VISIT WAS CIVIC-ECONOMIC ACTION ROLE OF ROMANIAN ARMY. PORTUGUESE APPARENTLY WERE GENUINELY IMPRESSED WITH ROMANIAN DISCIPLINE AND WEAPONS (REFLECTED IN FABIAO'S PUBLIC EUPHORIA). SOME RESTRICTED CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN FABIAO AND MINDEF IONITA (NEITHER PORTUGUESE AMB NOR COUNSELOR APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT WHAT WAS DISCUSSED). HOWEVER, CHIEF OF STAFF ION COMAN WAS ROMANIAN FIGURE MOST IN EVIDENCE IN TALKS. UNSPECIFIED "CAPTIAN" WAS REPUTEDLY "BRAINS" OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION (NO DELEGATE'S NAME OTHER THAN FABIAO'S WAS PUBLISHED HERE). AMONG CONCRETE RESULTS OF VISIT STRESSED BY PORTUGUESE WAS SAID TO BE AGREEMENT THAT ROMANIA WOULD PROVIDE "TECHNOLOGICAL AID" AND THAT ROMANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION WOULD VISIT PORTUGAL TO ADVISE ON ARMY'S CIVIC ACTION ROLE (PERHAPS, AS ARGENTINE EMBOFF COMMENTED, THE BETTER TO KEEP THE TROOPS TOO BUSY FOR PLOTTING).

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2. COMMENT: ROMANIANS SCORED EVIDENT SUCCESS IN IMPRESSING

PORTUGUESE WITH BUCHAREST'S BRAND OF INDEPENDENCE AND ARMY'S
ROLE, FEATURES OF WHICH, HOWEVER, SEEM EXAGGERATED IN FABIAO'S
LATER TELLING, E.G. BY OUR COUNTRY ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT CONTAINS
15 OFFICERS, NOT 20, AND MUCH AS ROMANIA WOULD WISH TO BE
MORE "NON-ALIGNED" (REFTEL), IT HAS HAD ITS HANDS FULL FENDING
OFF SOVIET INTEGRATIVE PRESSURES IN RECENT YEARS. INsofar
AS GOR CAN POINT TO DISINTEGRATIVE TRENDS IN NATO, SUCH AS
EMERGENCE OF INDEPENDENT "SOCIALIST" REGIME IN PORTUGAL, IT
SELF-INTERESTEDLY ACQUIRES ARGUMENTS FOR BETTER COPING WITH
THESE PRESSURES. FABIAO'S VISIT IS THEREFORE SIGNIFICANT
ONE IN GOR'S ATTEMPTS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE MILITARY CONTACTS
WITH "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" OUTSIDE PACT. HOWEVER, AS A GOR FOREIGN
TRADE OFFICIAL SAID, GOR'S INTEREST IN PORTUGAL IS AS MUCH
ECONOMIC AS POLITICAL, AND ROMANIANS COUNT ON PERMANENT
PRESENCE THERE REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL TURNS IN LISBON, AS
WITNESSED BY DEPARTURE TO LISBON MARCH 11 OF "ECONOMIC
DELEGATION" HEADED BY NICOLAE M. NICOLAE, MINISTER-SECRETARY
OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, TO ATTEND MIXED COMMISSION MEETING.
BARNES

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